

Arab envoy urges new U.N. action

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab League representative here raised the prospect on Wednesday of a new appeal for Security Council action to deal with Israel's continued repressive policy in the occupied territories. The official, Clovis Maksoud, also urged Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to expedite a report on the violence in the West Bank and Gaza, which the council, in a resolution earlier this month, asked him to deliver by Jan. 20. Mr. Maksoud told a press conference it was time the Security Council went beyond the adoption of resolutions that deplored Israeli actions. He called for condemnation and ultimately the invoking of enforcement measures under the mandatory provisions of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. These could include sanctions against Israel. "There is a feasibility within the next few days of returning to the Security Council, to render its resolution not only credible but functional," he said. Mr. Maksoud said a key element in the current situation was Israel's insistence that its own laws were applicable in the territories and refusal to consider them occupied lands subject to international rules, including the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Happy New Year

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, January 2, 1988, due to the New Year holiday on Friday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, January 3, 1988. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Volume 12 Number 3668 AMMAN, THURSDAY DEC. 31, 1987 — FRIDAY JAN. 1, 1988, JAMADA AL AWWAL 9-10, 1408 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Hawatmeh quits the Jordan Times; Khouri named editor

THE NEW YEAR brings in a change at the helm of the Jordan Times. George S. Hawatmeh, who edited the newspaper for the past five years, has resigned and is being replaced by Rami G. Khouri, veteran journalist and former editor of the Jordan Times. The change takes effect on Jan. 1, 1988.

Rifai meets association chiefs

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received separately on Wednesday a delegation of Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association headed by President Tareq Al Tal, President of the Jordanian Engineers Association Ibrahim Abu Ayash and members of the association board, President of the Jordanian Contractors Association Ali Abu Al Ragheb as well as President of the Jordanian Medical Association Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Team to seek jobs for Jordanians in North Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai decided on Wednesday to form a ministerial delegation to seek employment opportunities for Jordanians in North Yemen. The delegation will comprise of representatives of the Civil Service Commission, and the ministries of health, public affairs and education. The main task of the delegation will be to seek jobs for Jordanian physicians, engineers and teachers in North Yemen. The Jordanian government has already offered to send Jordanian doctors, engineers and teachers to North Yemen and Sudan.

Arab council denounces Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The general secretariat of the Arab Economic Unity Council on Wednesday called upon the Arab countries to take the necessary steps to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. In a statement issued here, the council condemned the "the brutal practices by the Israeli occupation authorities to suppress the Palestinian uprising." The statement also condemned the "show trials of the Palestinians arrested during the uprising and the arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." The council urged international organizations to denounce and reject the Israeli measures which aim "at denying the Palestinians the right to express themselves and their rejection of the occupation."

Assad gets Soviet message

DAMASCUS (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has sent a letter to President Hafez Al Assad briefing him on the outcome of the superpower summit in Washington, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported Wednesday. The letter was delivered Wednesday by Karen Brutents, deputy chairman of the International Relations Department at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, to Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Alexander Dzasokhov attended the meeting, SANA said. It said Mr. Khaddam was also briefed on the Dec. 7 summit between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The two leaders signed a pact eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles from their arsenals. The party daily Al Baath newspaper said Wednesday: "The two sides denounced Israel's inhuman practices and declared solidarity with the Arab peoples in their struggle against the Israeli occupation forces."

Defence lawyers boycott Israel's assembly-line trial of Palestinians

Israeli leaders debate extent and timing of expulsions

British Liberals warn of massacre on Friday

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been warned of a possible Israeli massacre of Palestinians in the occupied territories during prayers on Friday. Mrs. Thatcher was urged to intervene "to persuade the Israeli occupation authorities to modify the behaviour of their troops."

A letter to Mrs. Thatcher by House of Lords member Lord Winchelsea said: "I read today with great trepidation, that the Israeli military authorities are planning a major confrontation with the faithful of the area, as they gather for worship on Friday."

The letter, delivered to 10 Downing Street on Tuesday, appealed to the prime minister to "redouble your efforts, and to place your own considerable and much respected authority behind a final effort to persuade the Israeli authorities to back away from confrontation, and try the road of negotiation with the representatives of the local people."

"Otherwise," Lord Winchelsea warned, "there may be a massacre on Friday."

On Dec. 7, the earl of Winchelsea, a member of a Liberal Party team which toured the occupied territories in November, wrote Mrs. Thatcher warning of an imminent outbreak of widespread violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

In Tuesday's letter, Lord Winchelsea told the prime minister: "I asked for your help in persuading the occupation authorities to modify the behaviour of their troops on the ground in the hope that this would help to avert what, unfortunately became reality, only two days after I wrote to you (the first time)."

"I know, and warmly thank you for, the efforts made by your Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe to try and persuade the Israeli government to modify its approach to the people of the occupied territories."

A copy of Lord Winchelsea's letter, embargoed until Thursday, was made available to the Jordan Times late Tuesday.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Defence lawyers boycotted military trials of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation authorities to protest the "assembly-line" proceedings, while Israeli leaders appeared determined on Wednesday to expel at least some of the detained Arabs.

Israel's 10-member inner cabinet met to discuss the deportations and the possibility of renewed demonstrations on Friday, the 23rd anniversary of the founding of Fateh.

The army said a 17-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip also died of wounds suffered in a clash with soldiers last week, bringing the officially announced death toll in recent protests to 23 and provoking a protest at the Jabalya refugee camp.

After the inner cabinet meeting, the ministers refused to talk to reporters. Shmuel Goren, Israeli "coordinator" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said a decision was pending.

"The matter of expulsions isn't finished, isn't agreed," he said. "I'll just repeat what the defence minister said — that expulsions are one of the means we deploy in the fight against disturbances."

The Jerusalem Post reported that Palestinians were especially concerned that Israel would try to expel nine Palestinians arrested on Tuesday. The newspaper said they were known for their links with Palestinian organizations.

On the fourth day of swift trials in the occupied territories, dozens of Palestinians were again transported to military courts to face charges of "rioting."

Israel army radio said 80 detainees were brought before judges. A few were sentenced to three-month jail terms for stone-throwing but most cases were postponed, the radio said.

Defence attorney Jawad Boulous said lawyers were not being allowed to see their clients before trial or to know if they had been interrogated or had made any admissions.

But it was unclear at the military court in the West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday which of 48 detainees had tried and failed to hire counsel. At least three defendants appeared in court with a lawyer.

Israel denies defendants' rights have been abused.

"They simply prevented us from defending our clients, from studying the files, appearing in their names, interviewing them, knowing if they pleaded innocent or if they were questioned," Mr. Boulous said.

"These conditions have brought us to the conclusion we cannot be lawyers, maybe paper shufflers, but not lawyers, so we have been abused."

(Continued on page 3)

Junblatt says scuttled Damascus pact remains acceptable formula for peace

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the eve of the second anniversary of the signing of a "historic" Syrian-brokered accord among Lebanon's three major factions, the leader of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, said Wednesday that the agreement was still an acceptable formula for a national reconciliation in the strife-torn country.

"The accord remains one of the acceptable formula to us," Mr. Junblatt told the Jordan Times in an interview here.

The Damascus agreement, which was signed by Mr. Junblatt, Shi'ite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri and Eli Hobeika, who then headed the right-wing "Lebanese Forces," called for limiting the Maronite president's powers and increasing the representation of other sects in government.

The accord, reached on Dec. 29, 1985, was opposed and scuttled by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and by the Maronite-dominated Falangist Party.

According to Mr. Junblatt, there could never be an end to the civil war unless Lebanon cease to be ruled by "a foreign-

influenced party which represents the interests of four per cent of the people." He accused the Falangist Party of falling under Israeli and American influence.

"The Falangist Party's interests are linked with those of Israel and the U.S., and this is unacceptable," he said. But he said he was ready to agree on a compromise formula that could end the war and bring about changes in Lebanon.

He said such acceptable formula include the formation of a senate to be the highest legislative body in the country representing all the sects in Lebanon.

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanese pilot defects to Shouf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt told the Jordan Times on Wednesday that a Lebanese air force pilot had defected from Adma air base in north Lebanon. Mr. Junblatt, who is currently visiting Amman, noted that Adma was the air base where helicopter of late Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami landed before flying onto Tripoli and crashed on its return flight killing Mr. Karami earlier this year.

Lebanese police said the air force officer seized a missile-equipped helicopter while on a routine mission and landed in a Druze-controlled area southeast of Beirut.

A police spokesman said in Beirut Majid Karameh took off from the Adma air base on a "routine training mission" at 9:30 a.m.

"The air base lost control with Karameh about 10 minutes later. Radar surveillance shows that he landed the helicopter in the Shouf area," added the spokesman.

The Shouf mountains, southeast of Beirut, are controlled by the PSP.

Crown Prince returns after extensive talks in Turkey

Evren receives message from His Majesty

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Wednesday after a two-day official working visit to Turkey where he held talks with senior Turkish officials on recent developments in the region and delivered a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein to Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Evren and Prince Hassan also reviewed the recent developments in the Palestinian issue and the Iran-Iraq war and international efforts to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate ceasefire in the war.

Also discussed during the meeting was Israel's "iron fist" policy against the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Reuters, quoted a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Prince Hassan conveyed to President Evren Jordan's views "on the establishment of wide and effective cooperation both politically and economically within the region."

Bilateral ties and means of further strengthening them were also discussed by Prince Hassan and President Evren.

President Evren reiterated his country's backing and support for Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East through holding of an international peace conference attended by all parties concerned.

Riyadh softens stand on Iran in return for GCC backing for U.N. peace efforts

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has softened its hard line on Iran in return for firm backing by other Gulf Arab states of United Nations efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, diplomats say.

They said Saudi Arabia, as new president of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was committed to speak on behalf of all six members and two of them, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, had good relations with Iran.

Diplomats said Saudi soft-pedalling on Iran was also in response to Syrian efforts to cool tensions between Tehran and the GCC. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa visited Riyadh and Tehran during the four-day summit which ended on Tuesday.

"The ball is now in Iran's court. It is the interest and hope of all Arab states that Iran respond to the call of peace," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said at the close of the summit.

Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia deteriorated after violent clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi police which killed hundreds of people in the Holy City of Mecca last July.

Iran has intensified attacks on ships using Gulf ports and Kuwait accused Tehran of firing seven Silkworm missiles at its territory since September.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain set up the GCC in 1981, six months after the Iran-Iraq war began.

Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz opened the summit on Saturday with balanced pleas and warnings to Tehran not to spread the war to its neighbours.

The GCC summit final communiqué avoided harsh criticism of Iran but strongly urged the United Nations to enforce its Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a Gulf war ceasefire.

King Fahd called Iran a sister country but he warned that force would not end the Gulf conflict and could bring unwelcome foreign powers into the region.

"Force is no longer the final decisive factor. Each country ...



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in Ankara

and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The Turkish leader also expressed support for all efforts being exerted to end the Iran-Iraq war and pointed out that the situation in the Gulf had become a big danger to the whole region if the war continued.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Tuher Al Masri and his Turkish counterpart as well as Jordan's ambassador to Turkey.

On Tuesday, Prince Hassan and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal held talks during which the Crown Prince briefed the Turkish leader on the outcome of the Arab summit held in Amman and the efforts made by Jordan to unify Arab ranks in the face of challenges and dangers facing the Arab Nation.

The two sides stressed the need for further strengthening relations between the two countries.

On the political level, the two sides agreed on the need for continuing coordination to end the Gulf war and enforce U.N. Resolution 598.

The talks also dealt with the uprising of Arab citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The two sides agreed that the uprising was a result of the suffering of Arab citizens under Israeli occupation which reached a high level and made it very necessary to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

The two sides also discussed means to find a constructive mechanism for a conference of Islamic foreign ministers due to be held in Amman in March.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq and Iran report battle on central front

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran on Wednesday reported a battle on their central war front.

Tehran Radio said Revolutionary Guards launched a limited attack on Iraqi forces early on Wednesday near the border town of Mehran, 160 kilometres east of Baghdad.

The radio said "destructive operations" caused a large number of Iraqi casualties. The guards seized prisoners and equipment, it said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi forces repulsed a company-sized Iranian "attempt to approach a forward barrier in the central sector." Most of the Iraqis were killed and the rest fled, INA said.

Iraq also said its warplanes attacked a ship off Iran as the toll grew in the worst month of the "tanker war."

Lloyds said there have been at least 447 attacks or cases of war damage to vessels in the Gulf since the war started in 1980, with 178 incidents this year alone.

IRA team to negotiate Irishman's release

"An agreement is expected to be reached soon to release German hostage Rudolf Cordes in return for a serious promise that Lebanese Mohammed Ali Hamadei would be released from Germany's prisons after a while."

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is among the missing Britons. He disappeared on Jan. 20 in west Beirut while on a mission to negotiate with hostage-bolders. No group claimed his abduction.

The Reagan administration said it initiated the escort operation to maintain freedom of navigation in the Gulf and prevent domination of the waterway by Iran and the Soviet Union.

Earlier this week, Dr. Ghali held talks in Ethiopia, which Sudan accuses of being the SPLA's main backer, and Uganda, which borders Sudan to the south.

Security officials said at least two of the group had previously lived in Dubai, but no longer had valid visas.

Immigration officials had said soon after the deportees reached Dubai that they would probably

formed sources said. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the United States plans to send diplomatic observers to some of the military hear-

Saying that Washington remains concerned about possible human rights violations in the cases stemming from the protests, Mr. Pickering said a Hebrew-speaking diplomat from the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and an Arabic-speaking diplomat from the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem will jointly observe some of the trial proceedings, the sources said.

Sentences were uniform. Those

There were no witnesses other than the defendants and no defence lawyers — they were on strike, protesting the way the trials are being run. Most of the cases took about 10 minutes to complete, some less than three.

But there seemed to be two kinds of military justice being meted out on Dec. 28. In Nablus on the West Bank, 35 of 37 defendants pleaded not guilty and had their cases postponed. All had lawyers and Judge Yehoshua Halevy criticised the army's preparation of the cases, calling the whole procedure "a mess."

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Sentences were uniform. Those convicted of throwing stones at soldiers drew three months in prison and \$650 fines; those convicted of simply participating in an illegal demonstration were given 20-day sentences and \$200 fines.

So it went throughout the day as Israel's military court system shifted into high gear to cope with trying the more than 900 Palestinians arrested during the security crackdown in which 23 Palestinians were shot dead.

But Judge Halevy, in Nablus, complained to the army that files were missing and witnesses were not ready. The number of postponements there means a backlog

Iranian officials began claiming Iran is nearing self-sufficiency in arms production after the U.N. Security Council threatened earlier this year to impose an arms

The Independent, a London daily, quoted unidentified sources in Tehran and the Libyan capital of Tripoli as saying the deal was signed during a recent visit to Tripoli by Moshen Rafiq-Dost, minister of Iran's Revolu-

The paper quoted the sources as saying Iran has developed three new types of chemical mortar shells and rockets for use against ships, tanks and troops.

The Independent said that according to the sources, Libya wants the anti-tank and anti-troop chemical warheads for use in its war with Chad.

In return, the newspaper said, Iran would receive a dozen medium-range SCUD-B missiles. It said these were the type of missiles used by the Iraqis in the past to attack Baghdad, the capital.

Iranian officials began claiming Iran is nearing self-sufficiency in arms production after the U.N. Security Council threatened earlier this year to impose an arms

The Independent said Mr. Musavi's speech during a budget debate Sunday appeared to be aimed at "talking up" Iran's military capabilities in advance of a widely anticipated winter ground offensive against Iraq.

The New York Times on Thursday quoted U.S. officials as saying Libya appeared to have provided Iran with Soviet-made mines in exchange for chemical weapons and that Libya had on one occasion tried to use these in Chad without success.

The newspaper said the Reagan administration suspected Libya was building a plant to produce its own chemical weapons, and one official was quoted as saying Libya might use

Mr. Musavi on Wednesday denied his country was producing the outlawed chemical weapons, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"The Islamic Republic is capable of manufacturing chemical weapons and possesses the technology. But we will produce them only when Islam allows us and when we are compelled to do so," Mr. Musavi told reporters after a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Mr. Musavi was quoted by IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia, on Sunday as saying Iran is producing "sophisticated offensive chemical weapons" but will not deploy them unless necessary.

ports that the Gulf Cooperation Council might send an envoy to discuss peace efforts with Tehran, said: "There have been some talks in this regard and messages have been sent so far."

CHICAGO (AP) — Five members of one of the United States' most notorious street gangs were sentenced to prison terms ranging up to 80 years for conspiring in a terrorism-for-hire scheme to get \$2.5 million from Libya.

El Rukn gang chief Jeff Fort, 40, sat impassively as U.S. district Judge Charles Norgle sentenced him to 80 years and fined him \$255,000, saying "you were clearly the leader of the organisation."

"The purpose of this sentence

Fort and the four others were convicted on Nov. 24 of conspiracy and weapons charges after a five-week trial. The government said the group had offered to blow up planes and U.S. buildings for Libya, but committed no terrorist acts.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
16:05 Cartoons children programme
16:30 Children's Scientific programme
17:15 Children's programme
17:50 Health and Life (local)
18:20 Arabic Series
18:40 World News Summary
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Local varieties programme
22:00 News in Hebrew
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic film count.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 French Varieties
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Azibic
21:00 TV Censored Bloopers
21:30 Censored Headlines
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Gentleman Prefer Blond".

21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont'd.
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
634, 730, 1233 KHz

06:00 Newskast 06:30 Sportsworld
06:45 Reflections 06:55 Classical Record Review 07:00 World News 07:09 34 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Beatles: Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newskast 08:30 Time Verso 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:29 34 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Ther Sold a Million 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Country Style 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:45 Training for Tomorrow 12:00 News Summary 12:30 Just Cheers for 1987 13:00 News Summary; Just Like of Time 13:49 News About Britain 14:00 News Summary from England 13:30 Nations 14:00 Radio Newcastle 14:15 Multitrack 2 -

DAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition by Samir Makhel
Danish Cultural Centre - Jabel
(until Dec. 31).

An exhibition entitled "The
City of Mammoth Jerusalem" at
the National Gallery of Fine Arts
in cooperation with the British Council
(Dec. 30).

An exhibition of photos and docu-
mentary on the Great Arab Revolt at
the National Cultural Centre.

AN FILM WEEK

A Jordanian film week at the Royal
Cinema Centre daily at 6:00 p.m.
(Dec. 31).

CULTURAL CENTRES

National Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
Danish Cultural Centre 645371
British Cultural Centre Library 641525

Closed Tuesdays.
Marjory's Memorial Military
Museum: Collection of military
memorabilia dating from the Arab
Revolt in 1916, Sports City, Amman.
Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings
every first and third Wednesday at the
Regency Palace Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphian Club. Meetings ev-
ery second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn.
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00
p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Am-
man. Eighth Circle. Tel. 616534.
817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.

**QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it could always be verified.

ARRIVALS

JORDANIAN FLIGHTS
(terminal 1)

15	Amman (RJ)
30	Cairo (RJ)
40	Luxwair (RJ)
50	Jeddah (RJ)
50	Dhahran (RJ)
55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
55	New York, Vienna (RJ)
55	Athens (RJ)
55	London, Geneva (RJ)
55	Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)
55	Rome (RJ)
55	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

15	Cairo (MS)
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13:45	Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
15:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
16:30	Baghdad (IA)
16:30	Riyadh (SV)
19:20	Cairo (MS)
20:00	Sana'a (LY)
21:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)

PRAYER TIMES

05:03	Fair
06:37	(Sunrise) Fair
11:33	Dhuhr
14:17	'Asr
16:39	Maghreb
18:03	Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Wednesday rates

Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc	84.1	90.9
Dutch guilder	182.47	186
French franc	61.67	61.3

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	717393, 720131
Civil Defence Qusba'neh	720733
Civil Defence Dheir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	63034
Blood Bank	776303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622903-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8962911
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881	
Municipal water complaints	771128
Queen Alia Int. Airport (0853330-4)	

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	81181333
Khalidi Maternity, Y. Amn	644281-6
Akshik Maternity, Y. Amn	634847-2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642263
Malhiya, J. Amman	636181

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Salaman Daboubi	776751
Dr. Sa'leh Zayed	760779
Dr. Mohammad Amrneh	744241
Dr. Riyadh Murallam	657801
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	787336
Al Asma pharmacy	637018
Natroukh pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
TAKES:	
Al Wajia taxi	641833
Khaloudin taxi	664888
Bassem taxi	811825
Ahli taxi	621127
Hemati taxi	817441
Salameh taxi	854130
Buhairia taxi	777034
Namrawi taxi	806743
IRBID:	
Dr. Lutfi Shalah	241760
Shams pharmacy	1-1
ZARQA:	
Dr. Sameer Kallaya	1-1
Khalid pharmacy	985412

GENERAL

and partly on 95.4 KHz. SW:
TD: 74411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
11:00 Country Music
11:30 Hillsville: The Story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 New Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Season
13:30 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Discovering Music
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 50 Years of American Top
Twenties
17:30 Pop Season
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Special Feature
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show

Outlook: Orning with News Summary 16:45; Music On... 17:00; Radio Newsweek 17:15; The Pleasure's Yours: Behind the Music 16:29; Commentary 18:15; Assignment 18:45; The World Today 19:00; World News 19:09; A Country Music Special 19:30; Saturday 19:45; Sports Roundup 20:00; Newsweek 20:30; Discovery 21:00; News Summary; Outlook

VOICE OF AMERICA
**MW 1230 & SW 1230, 9665, 17741,
11925 & 12710 Hz**

06:00 News **06:10** Newsline **06:30** VOA Morning **07:00** News **07:10** Newsline **07:30** VOA Morning **07:50** News **08:10** Newsline **08:30** VOA Morning **17:00** News **17:10** Newsline **17:30** Music **18:00** VOA News **18:30** Newsline **19:00** Special English News & Features **19:00** News **19:10** Newsline **19:30** Magazine **19:40** News **20:00** News **20:10** Feature **20:30** Special English **20:40** Features **21:00** News **21:10** Newsline **21:30** Music **22:00** USA **22:00** News & Editorial **22:15** Music **22:30** USA Jazz **23:00** News **23:10** World Report

Cultural Centre 684203
Jahal Amman Cultural Centre 683909
Youth Centre 665195
South City 667186
City Centre 684251
Municipal Library 636111
Jordan Library 635495

MUSEUMS

National Heritage and Science Museum and Knowledge for All 636111
The Jordanian National Museum, Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

National Jewellery and costume (100 years old). Also mosaics and coins and Jerrash (140 to 18th century AD). Opening hours: morning hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m., afternoon: Tel. 651760

Religious Institutions: Has recent collection of the Holy Jordanian, Jahal Al Anfal Library. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday.

Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic). Jahal Lazwickich, Mass in Italian language every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623260

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jahal Lazwickich, Mass in Arabic and English every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623863

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jahal Amman. Tel. 625383 chaplain's residence tel. 601359

American Buddhist Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331

American Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 77336

Sch. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751

Amman International Church (Interdenominational) Tel. 625383

Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 675734

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service; Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295

Episcopal Church (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church)

Interdenominational-ecumenical English Service; Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 62945, Rev. R. Smith

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 818877

00 Riyadh (RJ)	Swiss franc 207.5	207.5
05 Baghdad (BG)	U.S. dollar 324.7	323.5
10 Amsterdam (SL)	U.S. dollar 324.7	323.5
15 Cairo (MS)	W. German mark 205.1	209.4
20 Frankfurt (LH)			
25 London, Cairo (BA)			

PARTURES	
TERMINAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS	
(Terminal 1)	
00 Aqaba (RJ)
05 Bucharest (RJ)
10 Larnaca, Rome (RJ)
15 London, Athens (RJ)
20 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
25 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
30 Kuwait (RJ)
35 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
45 Baghdad (RJ)
50 Jeddah (RJ)
55 Cairo (RJ)
00 Amman
05 Al Ain, Dhahi (RJ)
10 Singapore (RJ)
15 Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok (RJ)
20 Bangkok (RJ)

WEATHER	
<i>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</i>	
It will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with scattered rain at times. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to Agaba winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	
	Min./max. temp.
Amman	47/10
Agaba	7/19
Deserts	2/12
Jordan Valley	5/17

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
00 Frankfurt (LH)

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Agaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 75 per cent. Agaba 30 per	
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Al-Mushter Hospital	66/25/74	Radio Jordan	77311/14
The Islamic Abkhaz	606/17/37	Ministry of Tourism	64/23/11
Al-Ahli, Abdul	66/14/36	Hotel complaints	66/61/
Italian, Al-Mubshrej	777/10/13	Police complaint	66/17/6
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah	775/11/26	Telephone Information	12
Army, Major	66/10/11	Indian and Middle East calls	19
Queen Alia Hospital	6123/4/25	Overseas calls	17
Amal Hospital	674/15/5	Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

<i>Upper/lower price in fils per kg.</i>			
Apple (different kinds)	400 / 250	Grapelruit	140 / 100
Apple (French)	430 / 350	Lemon	160 / 100
Banana	350 / 300	Mandarin	170 / 140
Banana (Mukammur)	300 / 240	Marrow	130 / 100
Beetroot	300 / 240	Onion (green)	120 / 100
Beans (broad)	500 / 400	Onion (dry)	200 / 170
Beetroot	260 / 230	Oranges (Ahu shur)	200 / 220
Cabbage	70 / 40	Oranges (Shumshumi)	240 / 180
Cauliflower	70 / 40	Pepper (green)	160 / 100
Carrot	260 / 230	Pepper (sweet)	100 / 80
Carrot flower	70 / 40	Potato	130 / 140
Cucumbers	230 / 170	Raddish	40 / 40
Dates (box)	1200 / 1100	Spinach	60 / 40
Eggplant (large)	180 / 140	Tomatoes	160 / 100
Eggplant (small)	150 / 100		

JORDAN TELEVISION		23:10 News Sunday 9 in Arabic	23:10 Varieties comic
PROGRAMME ONE					
10:00 Koran				
10:20 Programme Review				
10:25	Cartoons and Children programme				
11:00 Care Bears				
12:00 Religious series				
12:30 Today's prayer				
14:30 Sport magazine				
14:50 Religious magazine				
15:30 Children's Talent				
16:20 English series				
17:30 Documentary				
18:30 Variety choice (Arabic)				
19:20 Programme review				
20:00 News in Arabic				
20:30	A programme on the West Bank				
21:15 Arabic Series				
PROGRAMME TWO					
17:15 French film				
19:30 News in French				
19:15 Le Monde Series Georgian				
19:30 News in Hebrew				
19:45 Varieties				
20:00 News in Arabic				
20:30 Nothing is Easy				
21:10 Moonlighting				
22:00 News in English				
22:30 Fallow Creek				
RADIO JORDAN					
835 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM					
* partly on 920 KHz. SW					
Tel: 774111-19					
07:00 Light Music				
07:30 Newsdesk				
08:00 Morning Show				

Morning Show Cont'd.
 News Summary
 24-00 Hits Close Down
 News Summary
 Listeners' Choice
 Country Music
 News Summary
 Country Music
 Jones Bulletin
 Jordan Weekly
 Jordan Weekly
 In Concert
 News Summary
 Instruments
 Old Favourites
 In Concert
 News Summary
 Top Two
 Music
 Discovering Music
 Pop Talk
 Young Sound
 Yes Minister
 Jazz Hour

BBC WORLD SERVICE
 6.30, 7.30, 11.23 kHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 Country Style
 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News
 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours:
 News Summary 7:30 A Personal Look
 at Remembrance 07:45 The World
 Today 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Meridian
 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours:
 News Summary 09:35 Write On... 09:45
 Seven Seas 10:00 World News 10:09
 Reflections 10:15 Organists of Paris
 10:30 Good Friday Meditation 11:00
 World News 11:09 British Press Re-
 view 11:15 The World Today 11:30
 Financial News 11:45 I've Beco
 Come Now For 12:00 News 12:00
 News Summary: They Sold a Million

13:00 13:15 World News: 13:30 News
 01:00 Britain 13:15 The Music on the
 14:30 Meridian 14:40 Radio News
 14:45 Jazz for the Asking 14:45
 Roundup 15:00 World News
 15:20 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30
 16:00 Outlook: 5-Minute
 15:45 Nature Notebook 17:00
 17:00 Newsweek 17:15 Operation
 17:45 Recording of the
 18:00 World News 18:00
 18:15 Sportsweek 19:00
 19:00 World News 19:30
 19:30 The Irishman 19:45
 19:45 News Roundup 20:00
 20:00 Multitrack 21:00 News Sum-
 21:00 Outlook 21:45 Personal View
 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours:
 22:00 News Summary 22:30
 22:30 News Summary: Network
 23:15 Music Now 23:45 Christmas
 24:00 The Savages 24:00 World News
 24:00 The Interlopers 00:25 A Letter
 00:25 A Letter

**Roundup 01:00 World News: Com-
 mentary 01:15 From the West: 1:
 01:30 Multitrack 3**

**QUEEN ALIA
 INTERNATIONAL
 AIRPORT**

*This information is supplied by Royal
 Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
 ment at the Queen Alia International
 Airport Tel. (08) 53200-3, where it
 should always be verified.*

**ARRIVALS
 JORDANIAN FLIGHTS
 (Terminal 1)**

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:20	Carlo	07:00	Amsterdam, New York (R)
09:55	Jeddah (R)	07:15	Vienna, Chicago (R)
10:25	Doha, Bahrain (R)	07:30	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (R)
11:10	Larnaca (R)	12:15	Istanbul (R)
18:00	Paris (R)	12:45	Larnaca (R)
18:45	London, Frankfurt (R)	13:00	Kuwait (R)
18:45	Istanbul	13:15	Dhahran (R)
18:45	Bangkok (R)	19:40	Abu Dhabi (R)
		20:00	Cairo (R)
		20:15	Dubai, Karachi (R)
		20:30	Damascus (R)
		21:15	

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:20	Sana'a (LH)	06:25	Amsterdam (KLM)
12:55	Jeddah (SV)	06:30	Cairo (BA)
13:40	Kuwait (KU)	10:10	Frankfurt (LA)
14:30	Dubai (EK)	14:30	Bahrein (BA)
15:05	Cairo (MS)	14:40	Jeddah (SV)
15:00	Abu Dhabi, Doha, Larnaca (GF)	15:00	Kuwait (KL)
16:35	Athens (OA)	15:30	Doha (EK)
18:15	Frankfurt (LH)	16:40	Cairo (MS)
08:25	London, Cairo (BA)	16:50	Doha, Bahrain (GE)

DEPARTURES
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS

Chamber of Commerce elects new president

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Khaldoun Abu Hassan became president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce after a landslide victory in Tuesday's elections in which 39 other candidates competed. It was officially announced early Wednesday. Eleven of the candidates won the chamber's 11 board of directors seats.

Mr. Abu Hassan secured 322 votes to win the top chamber post, followed by: Marwan Kharfan with 229 votes; Dr. Abdul Noor Habaybeh (206 votes); Mr. Ziad Homs (200 votes); Mr. Ali Sa'ad (167 votes); Mr. Khaled Kana'an (164 votes); Mr. Wasef Azar (146 votes); Mr. Hassan Haj Hassan (209 votes); Mr. Mohammad Inbeh (182 votes); Mr. Ahmad Taher (171 votes); Mr. Abdul Ilah Tabba' (158 votes); and Mr. Hassan Mifteh with 158 votes.

There were 490 industrial institutions voting out of a registered total of 531.

It was the highest turnout ever for a Chamber of Commerce election, and Mr. Abu Hassan was the first candidate to achieve such a significant winning margin — 93 votes over those of runner-up Mr. Kharfan.

Thirty-six of the candidates were running within three electoral blocs, and four were running independently.

The "industry family" bloc was led by Khaldoun Abu Hassan and included Khaled Kana'an, Wasef



Khaldoun Abu Hassan

Azar, Numan Asfour, Maan Shugheir, Ziad Homs, Marwan Kharfan, Ali Saad, Imad Shamma, Isahq Al Tebakh and Saeed Darwazah.

The "action and development" bloc was led by Maan Dhabian and grouped Sultan Armouti, Abdul-Ilah Tabba', Mohammad Gharybeh, Sulaiman Baghdai, Khaldoun Talhouni, Marwan Darwazah, Hassan Mifteh, Jack Khayyat, Hashem Hajjawi, Fawaz Shalan and Saleh Zaal.

The "union" bloc led by Hassan Haj Hassan grouped Mohammad Inbeh, Abbas Nahusi, Tawfiq Abu Aita, Ahmad Taher, Abdul-Ghani Abdeen, Bassam Khalil Salem, Abdul Latif Qarini, Bashir Salameh, Sami Abdul Athim Sharawi, Mohammad Sinjeh, Safouh Ajjaj and Ahmad Mukhaimar. Ramzi Haditheth withdrew from the election before the beginning of the voting.

Tighter controls imposed on chemical detergents

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply will take strict measures against complaints that manufacture of chemical detergents without licence from the ministry and without adhering to ministry specifications, according to an official statement issued here on Wednesday.

The statement followed a meeting at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply attended by ministry officials and producers of chemical detergents, as well as representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The statement by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher said that no factory will be allowed to produce chemical detergents without a proper licence from the ministry, and that

all chemical detergents on the market should comply with ministry specifications and carry the name of the manufacturers.

Dr. Muasher's statement said that those producers found violating the regulations will be liable for prosecution.

In addition, the statement said that all products manufactured without licence will be destroyed and the producing factory will be closed down.

It said that inspection teams from the ministry will be touring various plants as of February to ensure that they abide by ministry regulations.

The statement requested all factories to remove from the local market any of their products which are not properly licenced.

Prince meets Turkish leaders

(Continued from page 1)

They also agreed on intensifying cooperation in economic and technical fields.

Mr. Ozal accepted an invitation to visit Jordan. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Prince Hassan, in a departure statement to reporters in Ankara, expressed hope that his talks with Turkish officials would further strengthen and boost cooperation with Turkey within the framework of wider Islamic cooperation within the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). He noted that Turkey would take part in the OIC foreign ministers

conference to be held in Amman in March.

The Crown Prince said he had exchanged with Turkish leaders views on issues of common concern, especially on the Gulf war and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Prince Hassan said Jordan and Turkey stressed the need for implementing Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war.

The Crown Prince said that the current uprising in the occupied territories reaffirmed that the generation of young people who grew up under the Israeli occupation always rejected the occupation.

Riyadh softening stand

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf. Such a prerequisite, which poses practical problems and lacks American support, could result in protracted negotiations serving only to delay an embargo.

"They're coming closer to going ahead with it," an administration official said of the Soviet approach to an embargo. "But how close they are is not clear. One is not quite sure until we get down to the table." The detailed talks at the United Nations on drafting a resolution are expected to begin next month.

To the extent that a shift in the Soviet position has actually taken place, it may have resulted from Moscow's diplomatic problems in the region. American officials say. While the United States has been pressing since September for an embargo, the Soviets have

been preaching patience.

A State Department deputy spokeswoman said Tuesday that attention should be focused on the drafting and the implementation of a U.N. resolution for an arms embargo against Iran.

"We have stressed again that in our view emphasis must be focused on the follow-up resolution to ensure the compliance with 598," Phyllis Oakley said.

The United States would be willing to discuss "without commitment" the Soviet proposal for enforcement of an arms embargo, Oakley said. She stressed, however, that such discussion in no way would affect the U.S. position on the protection of U.S. shipping — which is that the U.S. navy is in the Gulf to preserve freedom of navigation, including the unimpeded flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Lawyers boycott 'trials'

(Continued from page 1)

decided not to take part in this whole game," he told Israel Radio in an interview broadcast on Wednesday.

Israeli forces, meanwhile, have made additional arrests in the past two days, the army said

Wednesday. Israeli newspapers reported dozens were detained, but army officials said "a few more" people were arrested.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said five of the detainees had been released from Israeli jails in May 1985.

Third Jordanian dies of AIDS

By Abdullah Nsour

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian citizen who had been receiving medical treatment for the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) died a few days ago, raising to three the number of Jordanians to die of AIDS in 1987, the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

A ministry spokesperson said that the victim had been under medical care in one of the Health Ministry's hospitals, and was the first to die of the disease in this country.

The other two Jordanians who died of AIDS were a Frenchman of Jordanian origin, who died in France, and a woman who died in Syria. However, both were buried here.

The spokesperson declined to reveal the name of the third

victim, but noted that strict health measures were taken in the process of burying the body.

The Ministry of Health announced in October the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan and said that eight of them were Jordanians. The other cases — all foreigners — have left the country, according to the ministry.

The spokesperson said that, at present, there are no AIDS cases in Jordan, but there are eight carriers of the disease, and these carriers are kept under strict medical surveillance.

"The Health Ministry has taken all precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease in the Kingdom and is taking extra care in dealing with stored blood and plasma," the spokesperson noted.

He said that all blood and vaccines imported from abroad

are being screened to ensure that they do not carry the AIDS virus and that all types of blood are being tested before being used for transfusions.

In addition, the ministry earlier announced the formation of a committee for supervising precautionary measures against AIDS. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Health Ministry, the Royal Medical Services, the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Medical Association.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh attended in October an international conference on AIDS held in Paris and submitted a working paper on the subject, covering proposals for increasing public awareness of AIDS and for stopping the spread of the disease.

Jordan to take part in conference on agricultural policies in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in a conference on coordinating agricultural policies in the Arab World due to open in Cairo on Jan. 10.

The three-day conference is expected to discuss the exchange of information on agriculture and ways to increase the volume of agricultural trade among Arab states, in an attempt to ensure food security in the Arab World, according to a spokesperson for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud will represent Jordan at the conference, which will be attended by delegates from 14 Arab countries, as well as a number of specialised Arab League

organisations.

In another development, Mr. Hmoud met here on Wednesday with Ghazi Abu Hassan, director-general of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO). They discussed steps taken by the company towards purchasing for processing potatoes, onions and tomatoes from local producers, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that Mr. Hmoud and Mr. Abu Hassan also discussed the company's policy of concluding to advance deals with local farmers for the production of certain crops for export and for producing other crops which are

in demand in the country but in short supply at present.

In a statement earlier this month, Mr. Abu Hassan said that despite government efforts to increase food production in Jordan, the agricultural sector is still incapable of meeting the country's growing food needs.

He said in a lecture delivered at the University of Jordan that the government has been encouraging the work of farmers and assisting the agricultural sector through the successive five-year national development plans.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, the country still suffers from shortages in certain crops and surpluses in others.

Preparations begin for exhibition in Riyadh

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) has begun preparations for organising a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March 1988, according to JCCC Director General Ghazi Diyab.

He said that the five-day fair will display a variety of Jordanian products from companies throughout the Kingdom.

The exhibition is aimed at promoting local industry and at offering Jordanian exporters the opportunity to conclude contracts

with Saudi importers, according to Mr. Diyab.

The JCCC director general told the Jordan Times that there will not be any direct selling of goods to the public during the March 24-29 exhibition, but that trade deals can be concluded.

Children choose Rambo dolls over educational games in Christmas spree

By Lami K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A variety of dolls depicting Sylvester Stallone, the American movie star, in his role as "Rambo," the "Super American" fighter and Vietnam War veteran depicted in a series of popular movies, was the "hero" of Christmas shopping for children this year, according to a number of gift shop owners.

The 15-centimetre doll, priced at JD 5, comes in a bright, attractive package, and Rambo is dressed in rugged, glamorous, though sometimes torn, costumes which reveal his huge muscles.

"Rambo is the latest fashion here. We have just received it, and children just love it," a gift shop owner in Shmeisani told the Jordan Times this week.

While I was talking to him, two children between ages six and nine swept by me and, after a few moments, came back with four models of Rambo and two plastic machine guns. They dashed out of the shop in excitement while their trailing father had to find out from the salesperson how many Rambo his children bought.

"Rambo," the movie, was severely attacked by Arab movie critics when it was screened in the Arab World, not only for its violence, but for what was viewed as "distortion of the history of the Vietnam War." Arab movie critics noted, just as many of their Western colleagues before them, that "Rambo" completely ignored the American occupation of Vietnam and focused on what was portrayed by the producers as "a courageous, individual attempt to save innocent American prisoners of war who have been ruthlessly kept and savagely treated by the Vietnamese."

The critics also attacked the movie's glorification of individual abilities. But, as the Jordan Times found out, it is exactly this exaggeration of individual strength that attracts children the most.

"Rambo is great; he is very strong brave," said 11-year-old Fadi. When asked about the theme of the film, Fadi said that he could not remember, but he expressed a wish to be as strong as Rambo: "I would love to be just like Rambo if I could," he said, laughingly.

A shop owner blamed parents for not "guiding their children."

Asked why would he import such goods he answered: "This is business; I need to make profit." He said that children's attraction to Rambo "is temporary and will soon be replaced by another doll or game."

But children's fascination with Rambo is only part of their attraction to all war games and fighting instruments. For example, a glowing plastic sword and a decorated how and arrow, very similar to the ones used by West German actor and former world body building champion Arnold Schwarzenegger in his movie "Conan the Barbarian," are also very popular in Jordan. The two instruments, according to the shop owners, are attractive to both parents, who find them relatively reasonably priced at JD 1.5, and children, who find them "thrilling."

But heroes of war movies and their arms are not the only of fascination of Jordanian children. According to gift shop owners, "there is always a high demand on war games and toy arms." They said that while children seem to be extremely influenced by movies and videotapes, they also enjoy the war games. "One in particular, which is called 'Axis and Allies,' sells during all seasons," a salesperson said. The game is about an imaginary conflict between the forces of the Allies of the Second World War (The U.S., the Soviet Union, France and Britain) and the Axis forces (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and their supporters) to "control the world."

The shop owners interviewed by the Jordan Times indicated that they import such goods because of their high profit potential, as the demand for educational and useful games "is relatively low." "Most parents who come here want toys which are easy and can occupy their children's time without demanding any effort from the mother or father to teach the game," noted a salesman in Shmeisani.

The salesman, however, pointed out that the advanced educational games are expensive. A good chemistry laboratory or an electric kit can cost about JD 25. "It is rather expensive, especially this year, because the buying power is considerably low-

er than the previous years," the salesman explained.

Nevertheless, in stores which cater to the affluent, expensive war games are still in demand. Both "Torpedo Wars" and "Shogun," priced between JD 20-25, are considered very popular. Store owners also noticed that most parents look for easy-to-operate toys rather than the ones which stimulate children's minds. "Battery-operated toys which can make simple moves or sounds are preferred by many parents to the special games which stimulate the mind," one store owner commented.

This does not apply, however, to toddlers' toys. According to salespeople interviewed, Jordanian parents buy their toddlers the special kinds of games and toys which develop the children's abilities to differentiate colours, shapes and sizes or to learn numbers and alphabets. "Many parents believe that once children go to school what they learn at school is enough, while toys are needed only for recreation and play," Michael, a young owner of a giftshop, said.

Despite this relatively low demand for educational games, some stimulating ones, like all sizes of puzzles and junior scrabbles, are preferred by both children and parents. Reasons cited by salespeople are that they are reasonably priced and are enjoyable collective games.

As far as girls are concerned, the "queens" of dolls — Barbie and Cindy — remain on top of the list. This year, Cindy's fiancé, Mark, was introduced to Jordan's market, while Barbie received a new glamorous wardrobe. But, in one shop which tries to focus on educational games, a salesperson noted that this Christmas, "there was less demand on Barbie and Cindy than in previous years."

NAF aid in 1987 reaches thousands throughout Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) in 1987 distributed a total of JD 25,497 on a monthly basis to 10,061 families in the Amman region alone and contributed JD 6,503 towards the rehabilitation of 57 persons, according to an NAF bulletin issued on Wednesday.

The bulletin also said that JD 11,044 was provided for vocational training, and a total of JD 4,610 was distributed to needy families in the form of emergency aid.

According to the bulletin, cards entitling holders to receive free medical treatment were distributed to 153 poor people, and NAF teams conducted visits to 1,433 families to determine those in real need and to study their cases.

In addition, the bulletin said the NAF ceased financial assistance to 50 families which are now self-sufficient.

Last July, the NAF board

announced that an average of JD 200,000 was being spent monthly on improving the living conditions of needy people in the Kingdom. In September, the NAF said that JD 1,046,356 had been spent in the first six months of 1987 for the benefit of 10,000 needy families, numbering nearly 60,000 persons.

Upon its inception in 1986, the NAF announced that the government had allocated JD 1.5 million to provide assistance to the poor, and that this would be augmented by donations from various individuals, voluntary societies and organisations. The fund is governed by a board chaired by

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

Mr. Haj Hassan chaired a board meeting at the start of 1987 and announced that needy people would be receiving JD 20 instead of JD 4 in monthly assistance. In addition, the board decided to offer assistance in the form of opening small businesses and farm maintenance workshops and to provide hearing aids or eyeglasses for those in need.

Mr. Haj Hassan also announced that the NAF had allocated JD 70,000 for conducting a survey to define the level of poverty in Jordan.

The minister said that the NAF is part of the national effort to achieve social justice and social security, which are essential in the drive to attain economic development and strengthen the concept of national belongingness.

Appointment of Sabbah seen as part of consistent Vatican policy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Appointing the first Arab Latin (Roman Catholic) patriarch of Jerusalem a few days ago was the final step in a policy followed by the Vatican of selecting local priests to lead parishes and dioceses.

"The Vatican likes to give the local (religious authorities) responsibility for the parishes," said Reverend Father Mousa Adeli, the local leader from the country is essential to the smooth working of the parish. Citing an

example, he asked, "What is the use of putting an Arab bishop in the Philippines?"

Even though 65 out of the 78 priests in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem are Arabs and 85 per cent of the 65,000 followers are also Arabs, it took until 1987 for the first Arab to be appointed patriarch. Since 1847, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, who is in charge of the diocese of Palestine, Cyprus and Jordan, has been of a foreign nationality, usually Italian.

Father Adeli explained that the Vatican waited until the diocese's work and its schools and missions were established before relinquishing the post to an Arab. "It was a step-by-step process," he said.

Parish priest Reverend Father Michel Sabbah, 54, replaced Italian Reverend Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, 77, who retired due to his age. Patriarch Sabbah, like most other patriarchs of Jerusalem, studied theology at the Beit Jala Seminary, which was

first located in Jerusalem.

Patriarch-designate Sabbah who was ordained in 1955, served as a director-general of the school run by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and worked as a parish priest in Amman after studying Arabic literature in Beirut in 1963 and Arab philology in Paris in 1973. He is the current president of the Bethlehem University. Father Adeli, who studied with Patriarch-designate Sabbah at the seminary described him as an intelligent, very serious and a holy man.

The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel due to the unresolved Palestinian question and the status of Jerusalem, which Israel has declared its "eternal and indivisible capital."

The Holy See has indicated the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel depends on the creation of a Palestinian homeland and international guarantees to protect Jerusalem as a city sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews, alike.

ADVERTISEMENT THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY AMMAN - JORDAN

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AL-WEHDAM DAM DIVERSION TUNNEL

The Jordan Valley Authority invites interested Jordanian contractors either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors to apply for prequalification to tender for the construction of a diversion tunnel for Al-Wehdam Dam project on the Yarmouk River in the north of Jordan which constitutes a major component of Al-Wehdam Dam project.

The work will include the construction of concrete-lined horse shoe shaped diversion tunnel with a diameter of (7.75) metres and a length of about (800) metres and intake and outlet portal structures.

Application for prequalification will be considered only from Jordanian contractors, either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors which are suitably qualified for this type of work. The Jordanian contractors should be registered at the Ministry of Public Works with Grade "A" qualifications in roads, water resources, excavation and civil works.

The prequalification document submitted shall include details of experience and past performance on similar projects. The capability of the contractors with respect to personnel, equipment, and plant and the contractors financial position.

Application for the prequalification will be issued against a non-refundable payment of JD 40 and will be available from Jan. 2, 1988 and should be submitted in two copies not later than Jan. 25, 1988.

The present schedule is to make the tender documents available to prequalified contractors on February 15, 1988, to arrange for a site visit by tenderers on March 1, 1988, to open the tenders, April 11, 1988 and to award the contract May 2, 1988. Construction will require about one year.

All correspondence shall be addressed to:

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Jordan Times

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Jordan Times

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1988: Test of resolve

THE beginning of the new year 1988 is posed to become a test of resolve between Israel and the international community over the issue of deportation of Palestinians arrested in the wake of the month-long uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other punitive measures contemplated by Israel against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories — including mass arrests and summary trials devoid of basic legal norms and safeguards — are also at issue. Of particular interest is the fact that Israel and the United States appear to be at loggerheads over the issue of expulsion of Palestinians. Thus, the Israeli authorities seem determined to take on the whole world, including the U.S., over this issue and others related to its measures to quell the ongoing Palestinian revolt.

For Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to vow that the Israeli government is determined to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories despite U.S. and international protests is surely an act of defiance bordering on insolence. Rabin was caught saying that his government knows the U.S. position, but that it would nevertheless tell the U.S. that it has expelled, is expelling and would continue to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories, presumably till hell freezes over.

By its words and deeds, Israel should enter 1988 all the more isolated internationally. Its solo attempt to deny the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been rejected over and over again by the international community. Israel's further attempts to rewrite international law relevant to military occupation to suit its purposes have also been dealt powerful blows in international forums.

But above all, the year 1988 stands to witness a test of resolve between the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, who are determined to end the occupation, and the Israeli government, which is determined to perpetuate its subjugation of the Palestinian people. Still, while we know how the new year will begin, no one knows for certain how it will end. Foremost in the minds of all concerned is whether it will dawn on Israel, in the course of the new year, that its occupation of the Arab territories is at the root of the cycle of violence in the Middle East. If the new year can bring about this elusive feat, then it will qualify as "The Year" which advanced the cause of peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Senate in total support

THE Upper House of Parliament yesterday unanimously endorsed a draft budget for 1988 which earlier won the unanimous approval of the Lower House. This all-out support by parliament to the government and its programmes represents genuine cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in this country. The detailed discussion which preceded the voting on the budget reflects the awareness of the House's members about the country's needs and development requirements and also displays their sense of responsibility towards their country and countrymen. The members were unanimous in their total support for the King's endeavours on the Arab and international fronts and his relentless efforts to unify Arab ranks and rally the Arabs in the face of the common challenges and threats. There is no doubt that the King's endeavours before and after the Amman summit meeting are helping the Arab nation to forge ahead with joint action and true solidarity. The house members were all in total agreement in their call on the government to maintain its policy of extending support to the people in the occupied Arab land to enhance their steadfastness in the face of Israeli measures.

They were also unanimous in supporting the King's endeavours for convening an international conference on the Middle East. The Upper House, like the Lower House, supported all means for strengthening the armed forces and security services and government measures to bolster the national economy.

Al Dustour: Spirit of cooperation

IN his address to the Upper House of Parliament yesterday Prime Minister Zaid Rifai responded to all remarks made by the house members, giving further explanation of the government's plans and programmes in the coming year. Mr. Rifai reiterated Jordan's commitment to national causes the country's belief in integration with Arab countries, its openness to the outside world and co-existence with all friendly nations. The prime minister noted that Jordan has won worldwide credibility and more respect from the world nations because it honours its commitments and is true and faithful in dealing with others. The prime minister paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts on the Arab and international front to enhance the Arab nation's stand and to seek a permanent and just solution for the Arab-Israeli problem.

In addition Mr. Rifai made it clear that Jordan will continue to support Iraq in its struggle to repel aggression and demanded that the Security Council implement Resolution 598 to end the Gulf conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: GCC keeps door open with Iran

THE Gulf Cooperation Council meeting has ended in Riyadh with the Arab leaders committing themselves to resolutions which more or less fall within the framework of the Amman summit meeting held here last month. The Gulf leaders chose to be cautious and to keep the door open with Iran despite the fact that Tehran is still adamant in its position and continues its threat to Arab Gulf states and despite its rejection of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the Gulf conflict.

The Gulf leaders chose to appeal to Iran to end the war and to the international community to help achieve that end. They declined to announce any collective measures to be taken to confront Iran's threats and repel aggression. The Amman summit meeting served as a guideline for the Gulf leaders who announced their total support of its resolutions with regard to the Gulf conflict and the Middle East problem.

Years of despair breed Palestinian revolt

By Karin Laub
Associated Press

BUREIJ, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — The squalor and despair of Palestinian refugee camps form a breeding ground for the anger that boiled over into the worst anti-Israeli protests in 20 years of occupation.

Teen-agers from the camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been at the forefront, defying the Israeli army with stones, home-made firebombs and burning tires.

Soldiers shot and killed at least 22 protesters in the past three weeks, wounded at least 179 and arrested hundreds who face months in jail and stiff fines.

But the young seem undeterred. "We are just at the beginning," said a 23-year-old activist from Bureij, a camp of mudbrick huts

near the Mediterranean shore and 10 kilometres south of Gaza City.

"The land that was taken by force must be returned by force," said a slight man who wore a red windbreaker, gray jeans and sneakers — the "uniform" of the camp youths.

He would not discuss anti-Israeli activities, and spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, saying he was arrested twice in Israeli raids.

"There is a new mentality," said a senior U.N. official who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "The young kids are prepared to sacrifice everything, and it's not just the bravado of kids baring their chests, daring soldiers to shoot them."

The hopelessness among camp residents is at the root of the anger. A third generation is growing up in squalor, aware the chances of leaving are slim as

long as Middle East peace efforts are stalled and Arab countries are too busy with the Iran-Iraq war to pay attention to the plight of the Palestinians.

Bureij is typical for the 28 camps in the West Bank and Gaza, set up by the United Nations for Palestinians who 40 years ago fled or were expelled from what is now Israel.

During a recent visit, barefoot children played in dirt alleys piled with garbage, and families of as many as a dozen people were crowded into single-room shelters.

At the camp's clinic, women in traditional Arab dresses and white headscarves, many carrying crying infants, formed long lines to see a doctor who serves 16,000 residents.

Parasitic diseases, especially intestinal worms, are common. Open sewage contaminates the

water supply. Infant mortality is 45 per 1,000 births, two-and-a-half times the Israeli rate.

"Dogs live better than we do," said 60-year-old Abdul Kareem Ammar who came to Bureij in 1950 after fleeing from a village near the Israeli port city of Ashdod where he grew melons and wheat.

Ammar, a wiry man with a salt-and-pepper moustache and a brown wool scarf draped around his head, said members of his generation didn't fight the occupation because most were uneducated peasants.

But he said he supported the young activists. He said one of his sons was shot in the abdomen during an anti-Israeli demonstration while two others were arrested in sweeps last week.

"Death is better than life in such a miserable situation. I'm ready to sacrifice five of my six

sons if I can go back to my country," said Ammar, who works in Israel as a day labourer.

Ammar spoke in the family's unheated shelter, furnished with mustard-coloured velvet couch, glass table and wall unit. Mattresses were stacked several feet high along the wall, to be spread on the cold cement floor at night.

Many refugees feel that if they leave the camps to move to a permanent home, they will relinquish their claim to return to their villages and that the world will forget about their national aspirations.

"The camp is a symbol. It's the only thing they have," said William Lee, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that provides services to more than two million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Of those, about 770,000 live in camps. Gaza has a refugee population of 450,000, including 55 per cent in camps. The West Bank has 370,000 refugees, and 95,000, or 25 per cent, live in camps.

In the past few years, Israel has tried to thin out the Gaza camps. Christine Dabagh, another UNRWA spokeswoman, said refugees were offered land leases to build homes outside the camps, but that only 40,000 have accepted.

Those who moved out had to destroy their shelters, and their old plot became off-limits for new construction, she said.

A former Israeli defence minister, Ariel Sharon, a political hardliner, last week proposed dismantling the Gaza camps altogether. "Palestinian national aspirations... in western Israel (the Gaza Strip) cannot be fulfilled," said Sharon.

How the international community sees Israel

By Dr. Ranko Petkovic

UNTIL the beginning of the seventies, the Western countries were virtually unanimous in supporting Israel in its conflict with the Arab World. Then, struck by the oil crisis, an earth-shaking tremor not only economic but political as well, certain Western countries, especially in Europe, began showing a greater understanding for the positions and interests of Arab countries.

Now, some fifteen years later, the prevailing view in the West European countries is that solution of the Middle East crisis does not lie in a military denouement, or partial and piecemeal agreements, but in the convening of a peace conference. Such a gathering would bring to the negotiating table not only the permanent members of the Security Council, but also representatives of Israel and of the Arab countries, including representatives of the Palestinian people. Certain neutral European countries, along with a number of large social-democratic parties in the West European countries, strongly advocate such representatives should come from the PLO.

Constituting a part of this important evolution, directly associated with the process of Europe's growing independence, is the assumption of a more selective attitude toward Israel.

Now we see before an asymmetrical political situation: Visible changes in the policies of countries until recently considering the condemnation and boycott of Israel as the alpha and omega of their stance on the Middle East crisis. This refers, of course, primarily to the Socialist countries, not only those coming under the heading of what is known as the Socialist community, but countries like Yugoslavia and China and also the group of non-aligned countries, particularly in Africa.

Motives

What caused these countries to change or at the very least re-examine their attitude towards Israel, although Israel has not budged the hatchet, nor has it withdrawn from the occupied Arab territories?

While the motives governing such a dissimilar group of countries cannot be the same, they nevertheless correspond to the following circumstances:

First, this is a period in international relations marked by the beginning of a relaxation in tension; abandonment of obdurate ideological positions redolent of the cold war; gradual creation of an atmosphere conducive to negotiation and the achievement of understanding, unthinkable in the absence of greater sobriety and realism both in self-knowledge and in communication with others.

Second, in this broad political, and possibly even historical, context, the groundwork is beginning to be laid for solving or at least trying to solve the problem of trouble spots, the most outstanding among them being the Middle East, as the longest lasting and most encompassing in terms of involving the interests of a large number of regional and global factors.

Third, among the immediate impulses causing various countries to re-evaluate their attitudes towards Israel, a place of first-rate importance can be assigned to their desire to make a contribution towards the convening of an international conference on the Middle East and, of course, create latitude for a larger pre-

sence and greater influence in the political and diplomatic activities that could follow.

Fourth, the severance of all communications with the state of Israel and, in particular, identifying all political and social factors in Israel with the principles of its official policy, are incompatible not only with certain international principles and social outlooks, but also with the economic and other interests of countries regarding Israel exclusively as an "evil state".

Fifth, certain Arab countries and political factors in the Arab World have, in the meantime, established official and unofficial contacts with Israel ranging from diplomatic relations to sporadic or regular contacts with specific political forces and individuals in Israel, which brought many face to face with the old truth that in politics it does not do to try and be holier than the pope.

Sixth, changes have occurred in political and social milieux in Israel itself, confronted with the increasingly obvious untenability of a strategy building Israel's future, exclusively, on military means, and uneasy in the teeth of the dilemma: Is time working for or against Israel?

Each one of these reasons, and all of them together, have to some extent influenced the present restructuring of policy towards Israel in the Socialist and non-aligned countries.

The Socialist countries

In the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948, the USSR sided with Israel, who was fighting the Arabs with Soviet weapons delivered via Czechoslovakia. The first Israeli ambassador to the USSR, Golda Meir, was welcomed in Moscow with ovations. Soviet sympathies then were on the side of the Jewish people, most widely victimised by fascism, whereas Arabs were regarded as pawns in British policy.

Israel's gradual inclusion in the fold of Western interests, primarily U.S., and the beginning of a confrontation between "progressive and reactionary" Arab regimes, marked especially by Nasser's coming to power in Egypt in 1952, made the USSR turn a new leaf and become an ardent "friend and ally" of the Arab World.

The first Soviet-Israeli contacts after the disruption of diplomatic relations in 1967 came in December 1973 in the course of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met with his Israeli colleague Abba Eban, to talk about the release of Israeli POWs in Syria and the possibility of normalising relations in the scope of the peace process advocated by the USSR. This was also a topic of discussion in talks between Gromyko and his American colleague Cyrus Vance in 1977 but the idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East, with the USA and USSR as co-chairmen, fell through with the signing of separate Egyptian-Israeli accords at Camp David in 1978-79.

The present process of Soviet opening to Israel, inaugurated with the meeting of Soviet ambassador Yuri Vorontsov and Israeli ambassador Ovadye Sofer in Paris in July 1985, and later between Prime Minister Shimon Peres at the General Assembly session in New York in October 1985, was continued at a working level between Soviet and Israeli consular representatives in Helsinki in 1986 when the topic was Soviet property in Israel (i.e. the property of the Russian Ortho-

dox Church in Jerusalem) and Soviet citizens emigrating to Israel. Finally, Soviet consular representatives arrived in Israel in 1987 to talk about the same subjects but this time "on the spot". Although what are called consular problems are now in the foreground, it is certain that ultimately involved is the generation of an atmosphere conducive to the renewal of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations in the context of the possible convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

A revival of dormant ties is noticeable also in the relations of other countries of the Socialist community and Israel. Mention should first be made of Hungary where lives the largest group of Jews in Eastern Europe and whose citizens comprise a significant segment of Israel's present population. Few were surprised by the holding of a conference of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, or the signing of a trade agreement between Hungary and Israel. In Warsaw, meanwhile, a section for Israeli interests in Poland has been opened. Rumanian President Ceausescu, who was the only one in his pact area not to break off relations with Israel, is getting ready for talks with Israel's Premier Shamir, now the most stubborn opponent of an international conference on the Middle East.

China, whose position on the Middle East crisis is virtually the same as that of the Non-Aligned Movement, until recently maintained a strict boycott of Israel, to the extent that China's diplomatic representatives were not even allowed, nor did they wish, to shake hands with their colleagues from Israel. Now, handshakes, with a smile thrown in here and there, intimate a process of opening, already permitting Israeli tourists to visit China.

The non-aligned

Documents of the non-aligned countries list Zionism together with racism and imperialism. Still, despite unreserved support for the Arab countries and, in particular, the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Non-Aligned Movement refused to go along with the extremist view originating in Arab circles that Israel should be cast into the sea. If Israel were to withdraw from the occupied territories, and the Palestinian people were able to exercise their legal right to their own sovereign state, this, in the view of the non-aligned, would be the condition for guaranteeing the political independence and

territorial integrity of all the countries in the region, including Israel.

Since the Non-Aligned Movement is democratically structured and every non-aligned country has by implication the right to decide where its own national interests lie, there are a number of variants in non-aligned countries' relations with Israel. Certain non-aligned countries have broken off diplomatic relations with that country, others have not, and still others have in the meantime re-established them.

Among those who have not severed diplomatic relations with Israel are, by and large, the non-aligned countries of Asia, Latin America and those under the strong influence of South Africa. Those who disrupted and then re-established diplomatic relations with Israel count among their number certain African countries south of the Sahara which had rather well developed military, economic, scientific, technical and other ties with Israel, and whose geopolitical and civilizational distaste of the Arabs is no secret to anyone.

The first African country to break off diplomatic relations with Israel was Guinea (1965), followed by the Congo, Chad and Uganda (1972). Mali, Niger, Burundi, Togo, Zaire, Ruanda, Benin, Upper Volta, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gambia, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Botswana (1973) and finally Mauritius (1976).

Most of these African countries severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the October war of 1973 in response to an appeal from the Organisation of African Unity and, certainly, in the expectation that the oil-producing Arab countries, in full upswing, would compensate them generously for all that they had lost in joining the boycott of Israel.

At the eighth conference of non-aligned countries in Harare 1986, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called non-aligned countries who had revived diplomatic relations with Israel "hartered souls". Egypt in 1979, Zaire in 1982, Liberia in 1983, the Ivory Coast and Comoros in 1986. But this did not prevent Togo from following suit in 1987. If we add to these countries those who never severed relations with Israel (Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa), at the time this issue goes to press ten of the fifty African countries maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Banned group makes comeback in Sri Lanka

By Marilyn Odchimar
Reuters

MATARA, Sri Lanka — Sixteen years after staging an abortive attempt to topple the Sri Lankan government, a shadowy and violent Marxist group is making a powerful comeback.

Anti-government slogans scrawled in red and black on buildings in Matara in the south, a traditional hotbed of Sinhalese radicalism, scream the presence of the banned Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

The police suspect that members of the JVP were responsible for the killing of the ruling United National Party chairman, Harsha Abeywardene, in Colombo on Dec. 23.

Abeywardene died instantly when a gunman sprayed bullets

while he was driving to work. His bodyguard, the driver and a servant, who were in the car, were also killed in the shooting.

A former leader of the party estimates JVP membership at 10,000, including about 2,000 full-time workers. In 1975, total membership was just 1,000.

The JVP's resurgence stems partly from anger among many Sinhalese at a July peace pact signed by the government to end a four-year separatist war waged by Tamils in the north and east of the country.

The JVP, dominated by the island's majority Sinhalese community, says the government gave too much away in offering autonomy to Tamil areas. The group also wants 35,000 Indian troops enforcing the shaky pact to leave the island.

A 24-year-old JVP member in-

terviewed here before the killing of Abeywardene said membership had grown since August by 60 per cent in Colombo, 160 kilometres to the north. It had a particularly strong hold among university students, he said.

The member, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters the JVP had killed about 250 people across the country since August, including 30 in Matara and 75 in nearby Hambantota.

Military officials suspect the group has infiltrated the police and armed forces.

About 10,000 JVP members were killed in a 1971 insurrection. The group was banned in 1983 for supposedly encouraging anti-Tamil riots in July that year.

Reverend Velletota Pannadasa, a Buddhist monk who is a local official in a village near Matara, said: "The JVP is becoming

stronger daily because of the stubborn attitude of the government.

"In my own village, I think 65 to 70 per cent support the JVP." The group, which has compared India's military presence in Sri Lanka to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, has thrived in the south because of the area's poverty. The government, preoccupied with the Tamil rebellion, has diverted few resources to the area.

"My (Sri Lankan) clients no longer come here since August because they mistakenly think there is a war here," said a manager of a hotel overlooking a serene beach.

Murders in the area are common. The climate of fear is exploited by ordinary criminals who pass off their extortion and violence as JVP-inspired.

Kuwaiti husband-and-wife team wins desert challenge

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tariq and Khoulood Al Alayan, a husband-and-wife team from Kuwait, bagged the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge on Wednesday after securing the second place in the third and final round of the championship held in Amman.

Tareq Al Wazzan and co-driver Khalid Khalifah, another Kuwaiti team driving a Range Rover, came first in the event, but the aggregate total of points that the Alayans secured in the three rounds qualified the couple for this year's championship and to bag the \$10,000 top prize.

Kuwaiti teams dominated the exclusive event for four-wheel vehicles but three out of the five drivers who managed to make it to the finishing line were Jordanians.

Abdel Ilhas Said Malhas was placed third in his Land Rover while Marouf Abu Samra secured the fourth place with a Daihatsu Rocky and Ibrahim Salman was placed fifth in his Suzuki SJ 10.

Former Jordanian national champion Hani Bisharat, taking part for the first time in an exclusive four-wheel drive event, could not finish the rally in his

Toyota Hilux, but was awarded "the Spirit of the Rally" prize for his excellent performance up to the half-way mark.

The event was devoid of an expected tough battle between Ahmad Al Helal from Kuwait, who had led the contention list, after securing highest points in the first two rounds held in Kuwait and Bahrain in October and December respectively.

Helal could not get his Mitsubishi Pajero, which secured him victories in Kuwait and Bahrain, to Jordan in time for the event because of problems in Bahrain, said a spokesman for the rally.

Ahhas Al Mousawi of Qatar had to drop out of Wednesday's race immediately after the first special stage of the 312-kilometre race held through the desert near the Queen Alia International Airport and organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and sponsored by Marlboro and British Petroleum.

The rally spokesman said Mousawi's Range Rover suffered a broken differential and three punctures.

The overall standing for the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge stood as under after the third round, dubbed the Jordan Desert Challenge:

Tariq and Khoulood Alayan — Kuwait — 51 points; Tareq Al Wazzan (co-driver Khalid Khalifah) — Kuwait — 42 points; Ahmad Al Helal — Kuwait — 36 points; Eid Falah (co-driver Sadeq Ashkanani) — Kuwait (Range Rover) — 31 points; Ahhas Al Mousawi (co-driver Mubarak Al Hajri) — Qatar — 24 points.

Abdel Ilhas Said Malhas secured 16 points but he had not taken part in any earlier rounds. However he was placed sixth overall as did Ebrahim Mattar and co-driver Khalid Engineer — Bahrain (Mitsubishi Pajero).

The 1987 Marlboro-B.P. Desert Challenge was the first of its kind organised in the Middle East. A Marlboro-B.P. spokesman said the 1988 championship would be a five-round event and would include Jordan and Oman in addition to Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Jordan Desert Challenge was not originally scheduled in the rallying calendar for the year in the Kingdom, but organisational problems in Qatar prompted the sponsors to seek the help of the RACJ to organise the event in the Kingdom.

The main reason behind the sponsors' decision to hold the event in Jordan was the excellent and professional reputation of the RACJ in organising rallying in the Middle East.

Olympic officials predict full turnout for '88 games

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Olympic officials indicated Wednesday they do not expect a Communist boycott of the 1988 Seoul games and predicted the event would be a major success.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said in a New Year's message to South Korea that he was confident the Seoul games would attract more nations than any other Olympics.

"As we enter the new year and rapidly approach the opening of the games next Sept. 17, I remain absolutely convinced that the games of the 24th Olympiad in Seoul will attract the largest-ever participation and bring the entire sporting world together in an atmosphere of good will," Samaranch said.

Communist North Korea has threatened to lead a boycott of the games if its demand to co-host the event is rejected. The IOC and South Korea have refused the demand.

Park Seh-Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), echoed Samaranch's optimism with a New Year's message Wednesday that also predicted a full turnout for the games.

"We plan to host an event with the largest number of participating countries in Olympic history, with the greatest harmony, the best athletic performances, flawless security, quality service and economy and efficiency," Park said.

A Soviet athletic delegation arrived Sunday in Seoul for talks that reportedly involved making arrangements for Soviet participation in the games. South Korean Olympic officials have said they expect the Soviet Union and its allies to attend the games.

Nations invited to attend the games have until Jan. 17 to accept. East Germany and Hungary last week became the first Soviet-Block nations to agree to attend the games.

Vera favourite to win as popping champagne corks mark new year

SAO PAULO (R) — Ecuador's Rolando Vera, a national hero since winning 12 months ago, will carry the hopes of his country in the 63rd Sao Silvestre round-the-houses road race on New Year's Eve.

A silver medalist in the 10,000 metres at the Pan-American Games in Indianapolis earlier this year, Vera arrived from Ecuador accompanied by 20 reporters, six radio station teams and a television crew.

Vera fears defeat in South America's oldest and most important road race could disappoint his countrymen.

"The smallest detail is important... a mere push at the start

could be fatal," said the Ecuadorian, whose main rivals will be Morocco's Mustafah Nethadi, Italian David Bergamini, Kenya's Sam Ngatia and American Ron Tabb.

But despite the quality of the opposition, all Ecuador expects Vera to be first across the finish line in Sao Paulo shortly before the popping champagne corks mark the arrival of 1988.

In the absence of Rosa Motta, winner of the women's race for the past six years, Portugal will be looking to teammate Rita Borralho for a seventh straight success.

The race will start at 2305 local time on Thursday.

Rockets raid Pistons' net, break their ten-game winning sequence

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Rockets' wins towers are being rebuilt with a slightly different architecture.

Seven-foot (two one-third metre) Joe Barry Carroll, strictly Akeem Olatunji's backup since the Dec. 12 trade that sent Ralph Sampson to Golden State, played many of his 36 minutes at forward Tuesday night.

Carroll had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Olatunji added 15 points and 14 rebounds as the Rockets broke the Detroit Pistons' 10-game winning streak with a 101-91 victory.

"I've always said I think they can play together," Houston Coach Bill Fitch said of Carroll and Olatunji. "They can play as well as Ralph and Akeem did."

Houston trailed 57-46 at half-time, but Olatunji and Carroll scored 10 points each in the third quarter as the Rockets outscored the Pistons 30-10 for a 76-67 lead.

"It's not important," Carroll said of his reserve role. "What's really important is what I do with my minutes as opposed to where

they are placed."

In other NBA games, it was Milwaukee 106, New Jersey 88; New York 123, Portland 110; Atlanta 108, Chicago 98; Dallas 126, Sacramento 117; Utah 98, Denver 97; and Los Angeles Lakers 131, Philadelphia 115.

Detroit, which still has the best record in the Eastern Conference, shot 39 per cent from the field. Adrian Dantley led the Pistons in scoring with 18 points, but he was 6-for-15, while Isiah Thomas was 4-for-14 and Vinnie Johnson 2-for-10.

Lakers 131, 76ers 115

Los Angeles beat Philadelphia for its ninth straight victory as Byron Scott scored a career-high 37 points and Magic Johnson added 26 points and matched his season-high with 17 assists.

Mavericks 126, Kings 117

Mark Aguirre, who twisted his ankle in practice on Monday, scored 24 of his 31 points in the first half as Dallas defeated Sacramento for its fourth straight victory.

Hawks 108, Bulls 98

Atlanta handed Chicago its

fifth straight loss as Glenn Rivers had 29 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists and Dominique Wilkins 26 points.

The victory moved the Hawks, who have won eight of their last nine and 13 of 15, into first place in the Central Division, a half game ahead of Detroit.

Jazz 98, Nuggets 97

Utah won its third road game of the season and Denver lost for the second time at home as Karl Malone scored a season-high 37 points for the Jazz.

Bucks 106, Nets 88

Milwaukee won its third straight as Terry Cummings scored 21 points at New Jersey. The Bucks extended a 28-19 lead to 38-21 early in the second quarter before the Nets used a 9-2 streak to get within 10 points.

Knicks 123, Trail Blazers 110

New York broke nine-game losing streak against Portland as Kenny Walker scored a season-high 25 points and Gerald Williams hit six of his 22 during a decisive 12-0 spurt in the fourth quarter.

Woodforde, Rive advance in South Australian Open

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Joey Rive of the United States had to conquer Australian Jason Stoltenberg and stifling heat Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$93,400 South Australian Open tennis championships.

Rive downed Stoltenberg, the world's No. 1 junior, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 in second-round action in the Nabisco Grand Prix event, which is being played on a synthetic rebound ace surface.

Rive said the 35 degree Celsius (95 degree Fahrenheit) heat tired him in the first set of the game in the tournament at Adelaide's Memorial Drive courts.

"The heat was really getting to me, but by the third set, I got my second wind and felt I was really returning well," Rive said.

Australian Mark Woodforde and West German Patrick Baur also won second-round matches Wednesday, while top seeded Wally Masur of Australia downed his compatriot Peter Carter 6-2, 6-1 in a first round contest.

Woodforde delighted his hometown crowd with a straight

set victory over South African Barry Moir. The red-haired left-hander scored a 6-4, 6-3 triumph. Baur downed Paul Chamberlin of the United States in straight sets 7-6, 6-1.

Australian tennis

In Brisbane, Australia, third-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany beat Anna Maria Fernandez of the United States 6-3, 6-1, on Wednesday to advance in the \$150,000 Ariadne Classic Women's Tennis Tournament.

Kohde-Kilsch had a first-round bye in the 56-draw Virginia Slims series grass court event.

Canadian Jill Hetherington scored an upset by eliminating eighth-seeded Etsuko Inoue of Japan 7-6 (10-8), 6-3 in another second-round match at the Milton courts.

Other second-round winners Wednesday were Australian Di-

anne Balestrat and Patty Fendick of the United States.

Veteran Balestrat ousted Belgian Anne Devries 6-2, 6-3, while Fendick downed her South African-born compatriot Ros Fairbank 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

In third-round action, Manon Bollegraf of The Netherlands stunned Australian Liz Smylie 6-1, 6-1 in a match in which the Aussie made numerous unforced errors.

French giantkiller Pascale Paradis also moved into the last eight by beating Japanese qualifier Masako Yanagi 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Paradis, 21, downed second-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia on Tuesday. She advanced to her first quarterfinal in three years.

Other third-round winners were Sylvia Hanika of West Germany, who bested Heather Ludloff of the United States 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-1) and Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who ousted Australian Wendy Turnbull 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

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Second floor, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, large sitting-dining room, fully furnished and full electrical equipment, fully carpeted, central heating and telephone. Location: Shmeisani, opposite Shmeisani Bookshop.

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Fully-furnished apartment consisting of 1 bedroom, salon, dining room, kitchen and bathroom, with central heating, independent entrance and garden. Location: Shmeisani, near Yugoslav Embassy.

Please call: 661658.

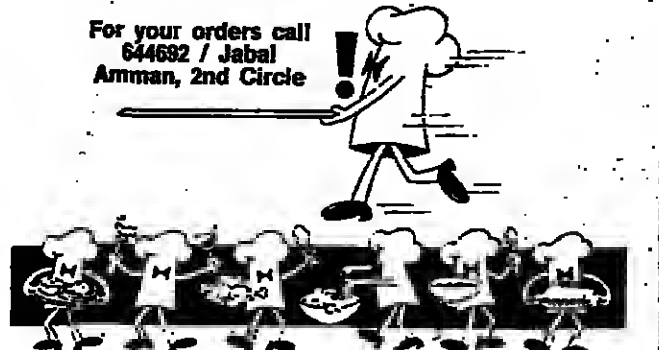
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The semi-villa has garden, garage, central heating, and telephone and can be let immediately with or without furniture.
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A pharmaceutical establishment is in need of pharmacists to work as medical representatives provided that:
A) The applicant is a Jordanian.
B) Has completed military services.
C) Age not more than thirty years.
D) Fluent in both spoken and written English.
Salary and other terms to be determined according to experience.
Applications together with C.V., supporting documents and a recent picture should be addressed to P.O. Box 2447, Amman.
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Water Authority of Jordan
Invitation for Rebid (1FB)
Supply of Water Meters
Date: 28/12/87
Loan No.: 2694 JO
IFB No.: 08/87/WMM
1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces an invitation for rebidding for the purchase of water meters.
A loan has been received from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of these water meters.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 75,000 water meters, 1/2" size, with a nominal capacity of 1.5m 3 per hour.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the president of the Water Authority, Shmeisani - Opposite Marriott Hotel, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone: 680100; Telex: 22439 W.A.J. JO.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of nonrefundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of JD 6,000 and must be delivered to the above office no later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time, on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1988.
Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Acting President
Water Authority

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For your reservations please call tel. 821705

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Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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OPERA
LEGACY OF RAGE
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
PLAZA
PREDATOR
Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

السلامة والسلامة

50 كذا من المال

Economy

U.S. report criticises poor accounting, controls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is losing billions of dollars through poor accounting systems and weak internal controls despite several improvements initiated the past two years, the General Accounting Office (GAO) said Wednesday.

About 30 per cent of the 1,515 accounting, procurement, debt collection and other weaknesses identified by 18 government departments or agencies since 1983 remain uncorrected, the accounting agency said in a report to Congress.

It said the 18 agencies, which account for about 95 per cent of federal expenditures, pay 25 per cent of their bills late, incurring millions of dollars in interest penalties annually.

Another 25 per cent of the government's bills are paid too early. That cost the government more than \$350 million in lost interest in 1986, the GAO said. But significant progress has

been made in a number of areas, according to the 50-page report, the third by the GAO on how federal agencies are living up to the 1982 financial integrity act intended to curb fraud, waste and abuse in government.

Two years ago, in its last report on the congressionally ordered reforms, GAO complained that the major problems remained largely unchanged.

This time, it said the administration of President Ronald Reagan has taken significant steps in several problem areas, making collection of delinquent loans and other debts owed to the government and better cash management particular priorities.

While improvement have been made, most agencies still "have a long way to go," the GAO said. Underlying the problem, it said, is the government's continued reliance on "antiquated accounting systems... laid out in World War II, and many of them

Central banks brake dollar's slide

LONDON (R) — Central banks in Japan and Europe intervened on Wednesday to prop the dollar but dealers saw no rally from its present historic lows without decisive action by the United States, which many doubt will be taken.

Worries about the dollar led to predictions that 1988 may see new volatility in share prices around the globe. But trading in shares worldwide was thin on Wednesday, with the tumult of 1987 abated in the year-end holiday season.

The dollar, at Europe's midday, fetched just under 1.60 Deutschmarks and around 123.70 Japanese yen, not much above all-time lows of 1.5865 and 122.75 quoted earlier this week.

Trading was very quiet. "The market is still targeting a lower dollar, but not today," the treasurer of a major U.S. bank in Frankfurt said.

At midday on Wednesday, London's blue-chip barometer, the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index, was up 24 points at 1,754.3 after dropping 60.8 or 3.4 per cent on Tuesday.

The Tuesday fall followed losses on Wall Street, in Tokyo and on continental European bourses.

Generally, dealers worldwide had marked shares lower because of the dollar. They said its fall renewed anxieties about the U.S. and global economy while also threatening the earnings of Asian and European exporters.

London brokers cited a somewhat steadier dollar and bargain hunting for Wednesday's rally in London stocks. But they said the big test would come next Monday after the New Year break.

Kuwait Investment Office raises equity in B.P.

LONDON (R) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), an investment arm of the Kuwait government, has raised its stake in oil giant British Petroleum Co Plc (B.P.) to 17.4 per cent from 17.07 per cent a week ago, a KIO spokesman said on Wednesday.

He told Reuters that KIO bought a further 22 million B.P. partly paid-up shares at 70.5 pence (\$1.31) each on Tuesday. This was just above the 70 pence quoted on the London Stock Exchange at midday on Wednesday for the recent issue.

The spokesman declined to confirm whether KIO, which has been steadily building up a stake in B.P. since the flopped sell-off of the government's remaining shareholding in October, would continue to buy B.P. shares in the market.

The 70.5 pence price KIO paid for its latest purchase was just half a pence above the price at which the Bank of England is offering until Jan. 6 to buy back unwanted part-paid shares from the public.

The British central bank made the offer to help underpin the new issue after it was heavily undersubscribed at its launch at £1.20 (\$2.23) a share payable immediately in October. Two further instalments of £1.05

(\$1.95) each are due on the shares next August and in April, 1989.

KIO raised its stake just as B.P. the world's third biggest oil company, was preparing to release its offer document for the whole of the issued share capital of independent British oil company Britoil Plc.

Under London Stock Exchange rules, 29.9 per cent is the maximum stake any company or individual can hold in a quoted company without making a full takeover bid.

B.P.'s £2.27 billion (\$4.2 billion) bid to control Britoil's board is opposed by the government, which holds a special "golden share" giving it ultimate voting control over Britoil. Britoil was privatised in two stages in the 1980s.

Press reports have speculated recently about a possible compromise between B.P. and the government to which the treasury would transfer its golden share to the merged B.P.-Britoil group.

This would enable the company to defend itself against unwelcome bidders, the reports said. B.P. has declined comment on the reports, saying it will talk with the government soon on its proposed Britoil takeover.

It may be difficult to make the actual exchange, but there are 5.53 Alhanian leks to the dollar. Meanwhile, the values of most of Latin American currencies, along with Canada's dollar and several Asian currencies, are linked closely to the dollar.

Sudanese cotton is bought and sold in the British port of Liverpool in dollars. Indonesians sell rubber in Jakarta in dollars. Futures contracts in spruce, pine and fir lumber from Canada's timber-producing regions trade in Montreal in dollars. So in other markets do oil, wheat, sugar and metals from aluminium to zinc.

Nobody wants the dollar to slide any more — or, at least, nobody says they want it to.

If holders of dollars "suddenly decided en masse that the dollar was junk, normal economic life would collapse," said the Economist, a British weekly, in a recent editorial. "No doubt it would eventually revive, with a payments system based on the yen, or gold, or cowrie shells. But the economic equivalent of nuclear war is worth trying to avoid."

It strains the world's trading and financial system when you cannot count on the market, economic analysts say.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh says a falling dollar has pinched the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said OPEC's economic commission board found that because of the dollar's slide, the goods that producers can buy with their \$18 barrels of oil — the group's reference price — are now worth \$2.18 less than they were when the price was set a year ago.

West Germany's carmaker Daimler-Benz A.G. cancelled four additional Saturday work shifts before Christmas because of the weakening dollar, which cuts its sales in the U.S. market.

When the dollar slips against the Deutschmark, firms like Daimler-Benz must push up the dollar prices of their cars or get fewer marks for each sale.

Either way, a weak dollar is bad for business and could be bad news for workers throughout Europe and Asia, which is why European and Asian leaders want an end to the dollar's slide.

The question is, whether America does as well.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8555/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3050/60	Canadian dollar
	1.5960/70	Deutschmarks
	1.7956/66	Dutch guilders
	1.2930/45	Swiss francs
	33.45/50	Belgian francs
	5.4080/4130	French francs
	1177/1179	Italian lire
	123.55/65	Japanese yen
	5.8360/8410	Swedish crowns
	6.2750/2800	Norwegian crowns
	6.1600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	486.90/487.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — U.K. shares stood firm in late trading with Wednesday morning's rally fuelled by a higher opening on Wall Street Wednesday afternoon, dealers said.

The dollar's new found steadiness and bargain hunting after Monday's shakeout helped drive prices higher throughout the day, but volume was seasonally light with a modest 222 million shares traded by 1500 GMT. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 27.0 points at 1,757.3.

Continued activity on the takeover front added to Wednesday's firmer trend, with the new B.P. shares the most active animal speculation that Kuwait was raising its stake in the company.

Kuwait on Wednesday confirmed it had raised its stake in B.P. to 17.40 per cent from 17.07 per cent. The new B.P. shares were steady at Tuesday, closing of 70p while the old were up 7p to 257.

The battle for Britoil continued with the U.S. company Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) again bidding for Britoil shares with ows it had raised its stake to the U.K. oil exploration company to 21.1 per cent from 20.4 per cent.

B.P. has made a £2.27 billion, 450p per share, offer for all of Britoil, while Atlantic Richfield is proposing to acquire a 49.9 per cent stake in the company. Britoil shares were up 3p at 437½p.

Turkish budget deficit falls

ANKARA (R) — Turkey announced a sharp fall in its budget deficit on Wednesday while parliament approved a government spending increase which bankers said was intended to boost growth.

The 1988 first quarter budget provided for expenditure of 5,875 billion lira (\$5.8 billion), a 57 per cent rise on the 1987 average.

"This is no austerity budget," said one foreign banker in Istanbul, Turkey's commercial centre.

Finance and Customs Minister Ahmet Kurtebe Alptemecin told parliament the budget deficit fell to 893 billion lira (\$890 million) in the first 11 months of 1987.

The deficit for the first 10 months was 1,118 billion lira (\$1.1 billion), compared with \$1.1 billion for the year of 931 billion lira (\$930 million). The 1987 spending target was 11,050 billion lira (\$11 billion).

Bankers said the sharp cut in the deficit from October to November could be accounted for Turkey's tax system, under which the bulk of income tax is collected in the last months of the year.

They also said the spending increase in the first-quarter budget indicated that Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has postponed an expected attack on inflation.

Mexico swaps debt for special U.S. bonds

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government said Tuesday it will buy up to \$10 billion in special U.S. bonds as part of an innovative scheme that could slice its \$105 billion foreign debt by almost one-fifth.

The programme involves swapping some of the \$80 billion the government owes foreign commercial bankers for new 20-year bonds issued by the government.

By retiring the bank loans, the government would be able to trim its foreign debt, the second highest in the developing world after Brazil, and its annual interest charges on that debt.

"The operation would help Mexico reduce the weight of its foreign debt by means of a significant reduction of its amount and, consequently, the payment of the service on the same," said a Mexican treasury department statement.

"The magnitude of the benefits for our country would depend on the relation of the exchange of the old debt for the new bonds," it said.

Mexico is to pay \$9-\$9 billion in interest charges on the debt this year, an amount that government officials say sorely limits economic development.

In Washington, the U.S. Treasury Department said Mexico is expected to purchase the special securities in early 1988 and use the bonds as collateral. "The issuance of this special U.S. treasury security, which is expected to raise up to \$2 billion in cash (for the United States), will ... be on terms that are beneficial both to the United States and Mexico," said the U.S. statement.

Mexico said that at an interest rate of 8.75 per cent, the government could pay \$1.87 billion to buy 20-year zero-coupon bonds from the United States. Zero-coupon bonds pay no interest but are issued at a sharp discount of their face value.

When, as this week, India wants phosphate from Jordan, Bulgaria needs an extra 100,000 tonnes of sugar or Japan buys oil from Iran, they all pay with dollars.

Their parents, worried that Lebanon's soaring inflation will continue to eat away the value of their earnings in Lebanese liras, race to change their pay-cheques into dollars. Later, they buy their own currency with the proceeds.

"My theory on changing my salary into dollars has never let me down," said Mr. Anwar Rachid, 32, an engineer.

The Soviet Union, oil analysts say, is keenly aware of the dollar price of oil when it arranges a sale of its own crude to its East Bloc allies.

Swiss bankers sell bars of gold bullion for dollars, not Swiss francs. Mexico pays off its creditors in dollars.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Rhymer Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow the mysterious nature of a new year about to unfold make you nervous or apprehensive. Rather, look forward to the prospect of a clean slate and make some constructive plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look carefully at your financial status and you'll see there's a way you can easily improve it. Put your home in order for socializing tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do whatever will improve your health and appearance this morning. Be sure you get any important appointments set up early today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with your mate how to be more successful in the new year. Go out on the town tonight and have a wonderful time together.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Your close friends can help you make your social life more interesting and profitable. Start working on your goals now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Budget your time carefully today so that you'll have time this evening for recreational matters. Get together with your best friends tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) You'll have an excellent opportunity to make some highly beneficial business contacts today. Use both your intellect and your charm.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 22) Get busy at fulfilling any promises you have made, especially those made to your mate. Much care in motion is necessary at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get in touch with your allies before noon, and finalize any plans you have on the drawing board. Have a romantic evening with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can accomplish much this morning by simply applying yourself seriously. Try to cooperate more with your co-workers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do what you can to help your mate achieve their goals today, but reserve some time for yourself. Make plans for the New Year.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do whatever is necessary to improve the conditions at home, but go out for a good time tonight. Be supportive of loyal associates.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Attend to any important messages this morning. Celebrate the new year in your home, and be sure to make a New Year's resolution.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A light and happy atmosphere in the air should encourage you to start the New Year with an optimistic attitude. Make only those New Year's resolutions which are constructive and accomplishable.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Listen carefully to suggestions made by friends. Make note of your ambitions, and also of routines which need improvement.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If someone nearby has good financial experience, ask for and follow this person's advice. Find more modern means of advancing in business.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Enjoy a gathering of friends tonight, and make plans for future get-togethers. These can be very interesting and profitable.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be with the one you love all day, and you will both find much happiness. Avoid associating with strangers you know nothing about.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) This is a fine day for being gregarious and enjoying the company of your best friends. The best way to gain your wishes is to state them clearly.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Get out socially, perhaps to a civic function, and meet with persons who may be able to assist you materially in the days ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 22) If you've been thinking about a short trip with a friend, this is a good day to plan it. A new situation will arise which can benefit you greatly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is an ideal day to get your responsibilities organized so you can handle them more easily. Invite some good friends in for dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be alert to new opportunities in the business world. This is also a good time to make new agreements or to revise any old ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A quiet talk with a co-worker can reveal much information which you were not aware of. Although it's a holiday, don't neglect your duties.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are highly creative today, and can use this ability to make your ideas work more successfully. Enjoy the company of your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is a fine day to improve your relationship with your family. This would also be a good time to entertain guests or to have a picnic.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KANLY
DESET
NEWECH
URGETT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "MUFFLER"

Yesterday's Jumbles: SCARF CRAWL FAMOUS BARREL
Answer: What to give the man who always wears loud ties - A MUFFLER

